



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR SMART GROWTH**

Honoring smart growth leadership and investing in smart growth innovation

INFORMATION AND ENTRY FORMS

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Upon taking office in January 2003, Governor Mitt Romney created the Office for Commonwealth Development (OCD) to care for the built and natural environments by promoting sustainable development through the integration of energy, environmental, housing, and transportation policies, programs, and investments.

Sustainable development, or smart growth, is not about no growth, it's about growing where it makes the most sense: in and around central business districts or traditional city or town centers, near transit stations, or in areas that have been previously developed for commercial, industrial or institutional uses. It's about growing where there is existing infrastructure and utilities, within walking distance to schools, civic facilities, retail or employment centers, and other destinations. It's about developing in ways that are consistent with the Commonwealth's Sustainable Development Principles¹.

Many communities have already taken major steps to encourage smart growth. The Governor's *Smart Growth Leadership Awards* were created by OCD to honor those communities and the organizations that support them, and to recognize their efforts as models for all 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts. Encouraging these smart growth efforts to continue is the focus of the Governor's *Smart Growth Innovation Awards*. They provide an opportunity for municipalities to get the support they need to move ahead with the best and most creative smart growth development projects and planning efforts across the Commonwealth.

OCD is now seeking nominations for these two types of smart growth awards: the Smart Growth Leadership Awards and the Smart Growth Innovation Awards. Entries for Leadership Awards are due on October 15, 2004 with winners announced in November 2004. Smart Growth Innovation Award entries are due on December 1 with winners announced in February 2005.

Smart Growth Leadership Awards: Eligibility and Deadline

The Smart Growth Leadership Awards will honor selected nominees in each of the following categories:

- Smart growth development projects that have been completed within the last two years
- Adoption of innovative land use plans, zoning plans or urban designs that advanced smart growth within the last two years;
- Acquisition, protection or creation of open space, conservation or recreation areas within the last two years
- Public, quasi-public or non-profit organizations that have demonstrated significant success in advancing smart growth projects, innovative zoning or designs, and/or open space, conservation or recreation efforts

¹ The Sustainable Development Principles can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/ocd>

Eligible projects, planning efforts and organizations must be located within the Commonwealth. Entries must be submitted by a public sector entity. Public sector entities include not only all levels of elected governments – from city councils to state legislatures – and constituent parts (such as planning departments and other executive branch divisions), but also other entities such as transit agencies or economic development commissions. Public sector entities are not precluded from nominating their own project or planning effort for an award.

Up to ten Smart Growth Leadership Award winners will receive:

- A Certificate presented by Governor Romney
- A case study on the OCD Webpage
- The opportunity to act as a mentor for others at peer to peer networking events, training workshops, and through the OCD Webpage.
- Extra points to a selected community if applying for Commonwealth Capital (CC) Funds in the fiscal year immediately following the award
- Special consideration for Priority Development Funds and EOEA Smart Growth Grants

Deadline: Entries for Smart Growth Leadership Awards are due on October 15, 2004 with winners announced in November 2004.

Smart Growth Innovation Awards: Eligibility and Deadline

The Smart Growth Innovation Awards will recognize and support nominees that propose early stage municipal efforts in the following categories:

- Smart growth development projects
- Innovative land use plans, zoning plans or urban designs that will advance smart growth
- Protection or creation of open space, conservation or recreation areas

Eligible projects and planning efforts seeking support through one or more of the following Commonwealth Capital (CC) Programs² and related technical assistance grant programs are encouraged to apply:

- Public Works Economic Development Program
- Community Development Action Grants
- Transit Oriented Development Program
- Transit Node Grant Program
- Self-Help Program
- Urban Self-Help Program
- Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program
- Off-Street Parking Program
- State Revolving Fund
- Executive Office or Environmental Affairs (EOEA) Brownfield Grants Program

² Information on most of these Commonwealth Capital Programs and related technical assistance grants can be found on the OCD webpage at <http://www.mass.gov/oecd>. Additional information will be posted in the coming weeks on the following programs that are currently under development: Transit Oriented Development; Transit Node; EOEA Brownfields Grant; and Urban River Revitalization Grant.

- Urban River Revitalization Grant Program
- Technical Assistance Grants: Priority Development Fund; EOEA Smart Growth Grants

Eligible projects must be located within the Commonwealth. Entries must be submitted by a public sector entity. Public sector entities include not only all levels of elected governments – from city councils to state legislatures – and constituent parts (such as planning departments and other executive branch divisions), but also other entities such as transit agencies or economic development commissions. Public sector entities are not precluded from nominating their own project or planning effort for an award.

Up to six Smart Growth Innovation Award winners will receive:

- A Certificate presented by Governor Romney
- OCD agency assistance to determine eligibility for funding through CC programs
- Technical assistance for preparation of CC applications
- Prioritization for Fiscal Year 06 CC Funding
- Opportunities for increased grant/loan amounts in FY 06
- Coordinated funding through CC programs
- Consideration for expedited permitting
- Visibility on the OCD Webpage

Deadline: Smart Growth Innovation Award entries are due on December 1 with winners announced in February 2005

Smart Growth Award Selection Criteria

An Award Selection Team will evaluate all entries and select the award winners based on overall effectiveness in advancing the Sustainable Development Principles³ and substantial progress in one or more of the following elements:

- Expanding housing opportunities,
- Restoring and enhancing the environment (preserving open space); or
- Providing transportation choice;

AND one or more of the following elements:

- Increasing job opportunities (commercial/economic development),
- Redevelopment; or
- Concentrated development.

Additional weight will be given to entries that support regional planning, evidence fairness, involve conservation of natural resources, and foster sustainable businesses.

All entries will also be asked to provide information and will be evaluated on the following elements:

Community Involvement

- Level of public involvement

³ The Sustainable Development Principles can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/ocd>

- Local approval of acquisition or zoning changes, etc., if applicable

Collaboration and Partnerships

- Number and diversity of groups involved
- Amount of money leveraged

State Model

- Replicability
- Cost/Efficiency - where easily determined

Public Benefit

- Measures of success (i.e. new growth brought to downtown, full occupancy of using space above storefronts, increase in ridership of public transportation, etc.)
- Impacts on surrounding resources/environment

The Award Selection Team will compare entries from similarly sized communities (below and above 50,000 in population) and consider the location and size of the involved communities to allow a balanced geographical distribution of awards that represent a mix of rural, suburban and urban projects.

How to Apply?

Entries for both the Smart Growth Leadership and Innovation Awards must include a completed entry form, responses to the award questions and additional contact information (see attached).

In addition to the entry form, questions and contact information, all applicants may submit supporting documentation such as a locus map, photographs, CDs, videotapes, written materials (e.g., an evaluation of the outcomes of the project, policy, program, etc.; project literature; development plans; press releases or articles; copies of the state, local, or tribal policy), and any other information that may assist the selection team in making award decisions. Electronic files containing images or other supporting material are encouraged where appropriate.

Three options are available for submittal of award entries:

- 1) By mail: Send to Governor's Smart Growth Awards, Office for Commonwealth Development, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1010, Boston, MA 02114;
- 2) By email: Send to Lauren.Curtis@state.ma.us and;
- 3) By fax: Send cover sheet to Lauren Curtis at 617-573-1399

For Additional Information

Please contact Lauren Curtis if you have any questions about the Governor's Awards for Smart Growth. Lauren may be reached at 617-573-1387 or through email at Lauren.Curtis@state.ma.us.

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ENTRY FORM

Please type or print neatly in black ink. You may attach additional pages as necessary or retype the application as long as it contains all of the information required.

Are you nominating an entry for (check one):

LEADERSHIP AWARD _____ (Due October 15, 2004)

INNOVATION AWARD _____ (Due December 1, 2004)

Nominee Information:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Fax: _____

ENTRY INFORMATION

Award Category: (check one)

Smart Growth project: _____ Innovative zoning/design initiative: _____

Open space/conservation: _____ Public, Non-Profit org.: _____

Identify and very briefly describe (name, location) the nominated project, planning effort or organization:

Contact Information:

Contact Name: _____ Contact Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Fax: _____

Supplemental Materials (If you are submitting supplemental materials, please list below)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

AWARD QUESTIONS

Please answer all of the questions listed below within the word limits specified after each question. Applications that exceed the word limits will not be considered.

Nomination – List the project, zoning technique, design plan, open space initiative or organization that you are nominating for this award (25 words)

Description – Describe the project, plan or initiative (including a brief description of the community involved with an estimate of the population size), or organization nominated, which sustainable development principles that are addressed the innovativeness of the project, plan or organization. (600 words)

Partnerships/community support – What partnerships were (or are proposed to be) involved and what role did (or will) they play? To what extent was the community involved and in what manner? (300 words)

Transferability – To what extent could other communities within the Commonwealth use this? How can this be used as a resource or learning tool for other communities/entities? (300 words)

Smart Growth Advancement – How effective is this effort in advancing the Commonwealth's Smart Growth Principles⁴? Is it part of a broader Smart Growth strategy? What impact has it had and what are its indicators of success? Try to be as specific as possible. For example, you could cite: the number of new or rehabilitated affordable housing units; the acres of open space protected or made available for recreation; the square footage of commercial or retail development; the number of jobs created; or the increase in transit, bicycle and other alternative transportations modes. (300 words)

Cost - What were (will be) the total costs involved and what sources of funding were used or are being sought? (250 words)

⁴ The Sustainable Development Principles can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/ocd>

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

It may be necessary for judges to gather additional information about projects, planning efforts or organizations before making a decision. Please list the names and contact information for three people who can provide additional information. In order for the Award Selection Team to get a broad understanding of the project, planning effort or organization, it would be helpful if the contacts came from different perspectives and entities. Potential references could be local stakeholders, partners from the private or non-profit sector, funders, elected officials, or other persons with substantial knowledge of the entry.

Reference #1

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Please briefly describe the person's relevance to the application:

Reference #2

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Please briefly describe the person's relevance to the application:

Reference #3

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Please briefly describe the person's relevance to the application:
